

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are all the claims pending in the application. Of these claims, claims 1, 2, 5, 7-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Colombelli, et al. Further, the Examiner has rejected claims 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colombelli, et al. Still further, claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colombelli in view of Sirtori, et al. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 3 and 4 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form.

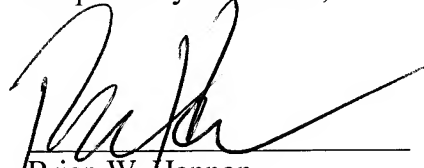
In view of the Examiner's comments in rejecting the claims, and particularly the comment at the top of page 4 of the Office Action regarding the language "comparable to", Applicants have amended claim 1 to change the phrase "comparable to" to "similar to". In view of this change, and for the reasons discussed in the Response in June 28, 2002, which are incorporated herein by reference, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance .

Applicants take this opportunity to note that on the front page of the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 3 and 4 are objected to. However, in the detailed portion of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that the § 112 rejections of claims 3 and 4 have been withdrawn. Thus, it is believed that there is no outstanding § 112 (second paragraph) rejection of claims 3 and 4 nor any objection to these claims for any other reason.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. It is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issuance at the earliest possible convenience. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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